

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19-29 and 31-37 are pending. Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 10 as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A bi-phasic culture medium, comprising:
a solid phase containing an egg slope or agar slope; and
a liquid phase ~~including~~ consisting essentially of: serum, and a peptone, a phosphate buffered saline and optionally an antibiotic.
2. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is an egg slope.
3. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the serum is horse serum or rabbit serum.
4. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the peptone is peptone or bactopectone.
5. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 1, wherein the ~~liquid phase includes~~ a pH of the phosphate buffered saline having a pH of is from about 6.8 to about 7.8.
6. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the liquid phase is ~~containing~~ up to about 98vol% phosphate buffered saline ~~in the liquid phase.~~
7. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase contains about 1 to about 15 vol% of serum.
8. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 1, wherein the peptone is ~~an~~ about 1 to about 40 w/w% bactopectone solution.
9. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase contains about 1 to about 15 vol% of the peptone.
10. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 1, ~~further including wherein the~~ liquid phase includes an antibiotic.
11. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 10, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, penicillin, streptomycin, clindamycin, cephalixin, vancomycin and rifampicin.
12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously presented) A kit, comprising:
a container containing the medium of claim 1; and
a container containing rice starch.
14. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 13 which is contained in a compartmentalized specimen bag.
15. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, further including a utensil for transferring a specimen into the container containing the medium.
16. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13 including an additional container for containing a specimen.
17. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the container containing rice starch is a sachet.
18. (Cancelled).
19. (Previously presented) A method of detecting the presence of protozoa in a specimen, the method including:
adding to the medium of claim 1, the specimen, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic;
allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate protozoa; and
examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of protozoa.
20. (Previously presented) A method of detecting protozoa in faecal matter, comprising:
adding to the medium of claim 1 faecal matter, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic;
allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate intestinal protozoa; and
examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of the protozoa.
21. (Previously presented) The method of 19, wherein the protozoa detected is one or more of *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Blastocystis hominis*, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *Entamoeba* or *Iodamoeba*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba coli*, or *Entamoeba hartmanni*.
22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the protozoa detected is *Dientamoeba fragilis*.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated for a period of up to about 4 days.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated for up to about 48 hours.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein additional antibiotic and/or rice starch are added after about 24 hours of incubation.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range of 36°C to 38°C.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the portion of the incubated medium is examined microscopically.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibiotic is erythromycin.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the portion is or includes sediment.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the protozoa detected is one or more of *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Blastocystis hominis*, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *Entamoeba* or *Iodamoeba*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba coli*, or *Entamoeba hartmanni*.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the medium is incubated for a period of up to about 4 days.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein additional antibiotic and/or rice starch are added after about 24 hours of incubation.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range of 36°C to 38°C.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the portion of the incubated medium is examined microscopically.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the antibiotic is erythromycin.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the portion is or includes sediment.